

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

signal processing means for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data; and

error processing means for conducting error processing based on the input route;

input switchover means for selecting an input route, said input switchover means comprising:

first switchover means for outputting encrypted and non-encrypted software data to said signal processing means and;

second switchover means for receiving the output from said signal processing means and directing the output of said signal processing means to said error processing means;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user; and

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion section.

2. (ORIGINAL) The software reproduction apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing on to said medium encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to its output to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

3. (ORIGINAL) The software reproduction apparatus of claim 1 wherein said error processing means is equipped with an error check code generation section for generating new error check codes corresponding to the said writable medium.

4. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a writable medium, a non-writable medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software, the software reproduction apparatus comprising:

input switchover means for selecting an input route;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data using key data from an external source and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user; and

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, for receiving the non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion means, and for outputting the encrypted software data to a writable medium.

5. (ORIGINAL) The software reproduction apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

error management means equipped with an error check code generation section for generating new error check codes corresponding to the writable medium.

6. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

input switchover means for selecting an input route according to the type of medium or communications;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data for the user;

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data for said data conversion section;

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;  
writing means for writing, on said medium, encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to the output of the encrypted software data to said software management means; and  
a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

7. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

signal processing means for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data; and

error processing means for conducting error processing based on the input route;

input switchover means for selecting an input route, said input switchover means comprising:

first switchover means for outputting encrypted and non-encrypted software data to said signal processing means and;

second switchover means for receiving the output from said signal processing means and directing the output of said signal processing means to said error processing means;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user;

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion section;

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing on said writable medium encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to its output to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

8. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a

communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a

storage medium;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means, digital information read by said drive means, and software data decoded by the software management means, into at least one of visible and audible data;

switch means for switching a one-way connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said drive means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means, and said drive means and said software management means; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

9. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said software management means comprises:

deciphering means

for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and

for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

10. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said software management means further comprises:

billing managing means

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

11. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed, and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

12. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage medium;

a software manager decoding encrypted software data and managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver, digital information read by said drive device, and software data decoded by the software manager, into at least one of visible and audible data;

a switch switching a one-way connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, between said drive device and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said software manager, and between said drive device and said software manager; and

an output device, connected to said converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

13. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said software manager comprises:

a deciphering device

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

14. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said software manager further comprises:

a billing manager

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive device.

15. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converter comprises:

an extender

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital information is compressed.

16. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a software manager decoding encrypted software data and managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data, the decoded software data being provided to the converter as digital data to be converted;

a switch having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium.

a fourth switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, and so that the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data, and

a fifth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data of the read digital data and the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, and so that the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

17. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the software manager comprises:

a deciphering device which,

when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, decipheres the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, decipheres the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

18. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the software manager comprises:

a billing manager managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

19. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the converter comprises:

an extender extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

20. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data;

a switch having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data; and

a software manager managing monetary charges according to usage of the encrypted digital data decoded by the decoder.

21. (NEW) A switch comprising:



a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

a fourth switch position which connects the digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

a fifth switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

wherein an output device, connected to the converter, outputs the at least one of visible and audible data.

## 22. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

fourth means for connecting the digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the

decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

fifth means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

outputting means, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

23. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for providing the decoded software data to the information converting means to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said drive means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means, and said drive means and said software management means;

selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at

least one of visible and audible data.

24. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction;

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via the communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;

information converting means for converting digital information into at least one of visible and audible data;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and providing the decoded software data as digital information to the information converting means, and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means so that the information converting means converts the digital information received by the digital information receiving means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said drive means and said information converting means so that said information converting means converts the digital information read by the drive means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means so that the software management means decodes software data in the digital information received by the digital information receiving means, and said drive means and said software management means so that the software management means decodes software data in the digital information read by the drive means; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

25. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said software management means comprises:

deciphering means

for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and

for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

26. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said software management means further comprises:

billing managing means

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

27. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed, and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

28. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction;

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via the communication medium;

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage medium;

a software manager decoding encrypted software data, and managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver, digital information read by said drive device, and software data decoded by the software manager, into at least one of visible and audible data;

a switch switching a connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said software manager, between said drive device and said software manager, between said digital information receiver and said drive

device, and between said drive device and said converter; and  
an output device, connected to said converter, outputting the at least one of visible and  
audible data.

29. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said software manager  
comprises:

a deciphering device

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when  
the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said  
converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital  
information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

30. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said software manager further  
comprises:

a billing manager

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said  
digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive  
device.

31. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said converter comprises:  
an extender

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when  
said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital  
information is compressed.

32. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing external digital data in one direction;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a software manager decoding encrypted software data and managing monetary charges  
according to usage of the decoded software data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a switch having

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium,

a fourth switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data in digital data provided by the communication path and provides the decoded software data to the converter so that the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data, and

a fifth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the software manager so that the software manager decodes encrypted software data in digital data read from the storage medium and provides the decoded software data to the converter so that the converter converts the decoded software data into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

33. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the software manager comprises:

a deciphering device which,

when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, decipheres the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, deciphers the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

34. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the software manager comprises:

a billing manager managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

35. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the converter comprises:  
an extender extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

36. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:  
a communication path providing external digital data in one direction;  
a storage medium storing digital data;  
a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;  
a decoder decoding encrypted digital data;  
a software manager managing monetary charges according to usage of digital data decoded by the decoder;  
a switch having  
a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter without passing through the decoder, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,  
a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder, the encrypted digital data being decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data being converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data.

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter without passing through the decoder, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data.

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder, the encrypted digital data being decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data being converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

37. (NEW) A switch comprising:

a first switch position which connects external digital data provided by a communication path in one direction to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium;

a fourth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

a fifth switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;



wherein an output device, connected to the converter, outputs the at least one of visible and audible data.

38. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting external digital data provided by a communication path in one direction to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium;

fourth means for connecting digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

fifth means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

outputting means, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

39. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction;

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via the communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital

information receiving means, digital information read by said drive means, and software data decoded by said software management means, into at least one of visible and audible data;

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, said digital information receiving means and said software management means, said drive means and said software management means, and said drive means and said information converting means;

selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

40. (NEW) A switch comprising:

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided by the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

a fourth switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

a fifth switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according

to usage of the decoded software data.

41. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

means for connecting digital data provided by a communication path to a converter so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

means for connecting digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium so that the digital data provided by the communication path is stored in the storage medium;

means for connecting digital data read from the storage medium to a software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the read digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data; and

means for connecting digital data provided by the communication path to the software manager which decodes encrypted software data in the provided digital data and then provides the decoded software data to the converter to be converted into at least one of visible and audible data, wherein the software manager manages monetary charges according to usage of the decoded software data.